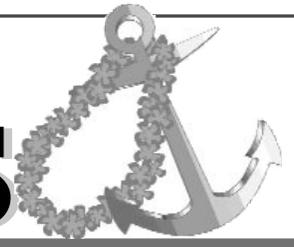


# Hawaii Navy News



Volume 24 Issue 10

1997 Chief of Information Merit Award Winner

March 12, 1999

## IN BRIEF

### Rifle and pistol championship announced

The 1999 Pacific Fleet Rifle and Pistol championships will be held May 15-22 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. The championships are open to all active duty Navy, Navy reservists, Fleet Reserve and retired Navy personnel. Top scoring competitors and teams will be selected to represent PACFLT at the 1999 All Navy Championships.

The entry fee is \$40. Entries must be post-marked by May 7.

For more information, refer to COMNAVREG SW San Diego message DTG 101200Z FEB 99, or visit the U.S. Navy Shooting Team home page at usnst.org.

### Wildlife refuge seeks volunteers for cleanup

Volunteers are needed on March 27 to remove weeds and plant vegetation at the Honouliuli Unit of the Pearl Harbor Wildlife Refuge. The project will begin at 8 a.m. and end at noon.

Individuals interested in participating should meet at the St. Francis Medical Center - West, parking lot.

This project is being held in conjunction with the 96th Birthday of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The first refuge was established in 1903 at Pelican Island, Florida. Today, there are more than 500 National Wildlife Refuges in the United States.

For more information, contact Bill Roome at 471-5651

## William H. Bates gets underway for final WESTPAC

By JOSN McClain  
Shewman

COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

USS William H. Bates (SSN 680), a Sturgeon class fast-attack submarine homeported in Pearl Harbor recently began its last deployment. Commanded by Cmdr. Curtis Stevens, William H. Bates departed last Friday for its final Western Pacific deployment.

The ship's crew is excited about being part of the final and historic deployment and understands the importance for a continued U.S. submarine presence worldwide.

"Submarines are the most durable, survivable and stealthy assets for ensuring peace," said Lt. Wesley Guinn of Tucson, Ariz., Bates' operations officer. "Without them, the U.S. would be hazardedly vulnerable."

The submarine force in the Pacific will continue to shrink from as many as 40 in the early 1990's to only 25 early in the next decade.

The submarine is named in honor of the late United States Representative William H. Bates of Massachusetts. Rep. Bates was devoted to the vital importance of U.S. seapower, and served in the Navy for 10 years. Rep. Bates served as representative from 1950 to 1969, becoming the senior Republican member of the House Armed Services Committee and the second ranking House member of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee.

"[Submarines] are foremost in the defense of the U.S. and in waging peaceful

▼ See BATES, A-5

## 57 years of 'can do'

□ Navy's construction force celebrates proud tradition of building anything, anytime

By J01 Dave Nagle

HNN EDITOR

THEY'RE virtually all over the world, doing a wide variety of projects. They've built schoolhouses in Central America and timber bridges in Bosnia. On any given day, they're running electrical wiring, pouring concrete, operating bulldozers or constructing pre-fabricated steel buildings.

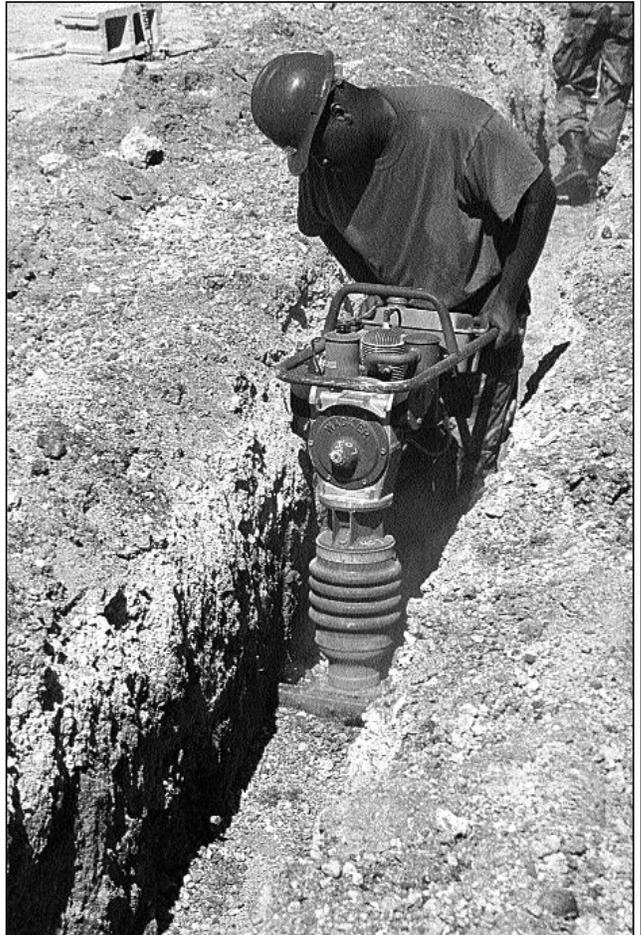
They can raise up tent cities and break down M-16's with record speed. No job is too big or too small, and they'll always find time to lend a helping hand.

They're the Navy's plumbers, bricklayers, electricians, steelworkers and heavy equipment operators. They build, they fight. They're the Navy's Seabees and last Friday, they celebrated their 57th birthday.

"During peacetime, we do general construction work for the Navy," said Builder 1st Class Eric Tucker, assigned to Construction Battalion Unit 413 (CBU-413). "During contingency operations, however, we're building things like helicopter landing pads, tent cities, heavy timber bridges, whatever the unit commander needs done. Hence, the 'can do' motto - we can do just about anything."

"We do anything and everything that needs to be done," added Construction Electrician 3rd Class Chris O'Rourke of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Five (NM-

▼ See SEABEES, A-4



J01 Dave Nagle photo

UT3 Woodrow Stuckey of Construction Battalion Unit 413 (CBU-413) compacts a trench in preparation for a new water line at the Rainbow Bay Marina on Monday. The Seabees celebrated their 57th birthday last Friday.

## INSIDE HNN



**Reading is fundamental:** PACFLT Sailors take part in annual Read Across America at local school. B-1

## Also...

**Partnership:** NPMOC joins community to paint mural at Moanalua Intermediate School. A-7

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## USS Boston comes to Hawaii

COMSUBPAC Public Affairs

USS Boston (SSN 703) pulled into Pearl Harbor on Feb. 26 in preparation for her upcoming decommissioning. She departed from Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn. on Feb. 5 to begin her trip west.

"To all who have served on USS Boston, and on behalf of a grateful nation, I extend my deepest appreciation and respect to you and your families for the many sacrifices you have made," said Vice Adm. Edmund P. Giambastiani Jr., Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet. "You directly contributed



COMSUBPAC Public Affairs photo

▼ See BOSTON, A-5 Sailors man the rails as USS Boston (SSN 703) arrives in Pearl Harbor on Feb. 26.

## Showing off his ship



J03 Brenda Diggs photo

QM1(SW) J.J. Myers explains bridge operations aboard USS Reuben James (FFG 57) last Saturday. Two hundred fifty-four people toured Reuben James as part of the monthly "Visit Ship" program.

Pacific Fleet  
**ONE  
on  
ONE**

Gen. Joe Ralston  
Vice Chairman,  
Joint Chiefs of Staff

By J01(SW/FMF) S.A.  
Thornbloom

PACIFIC FLEET PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Air Force Gen. Joe Ralston is the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. In this capacity, he is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the nation's second highest-ranking military officer. As the vice chairman, the general serves as the chairman of the Joint Requirements Oversight Committee and the Nuclear Weapons Council. In addition, he acts for the chairman in all aspects of the planning, programming and budgeting systems to include participating in meetings of the Defense Resources Board. Recently the 34-year veteran made a trip to New Zealand to discuss military cooperation and possible training in the future. During his PACFLT One on One interview with J01(SW/FMF) S.A. Thornbloom of the Fleet Public Affairs Office, Gen. Ralston talked about his trip and other issues that concern the Joint Chiefs about the U.S. military and service members around the world and in the Pacific region.

**Q.** Can you talk about your trip to New Zealand and some of the discussions that you had with the leaders of that country?

**A.** It gave me an opportunity to go and talk to the senior military as well as the civilian leadership of New Zealand. I'd characterize our discussions as extremely useful. We have encouraged New Zealand to play a role around the world. They are with us today on our ships inside the Arabian Gulf as part of the maritime interception force. They're with us in Bosnia and with us on the Sinai Peninsula. And they've done a very good job. We have encouraged them to improve the modernization of their defense forces and they're doing that across the board - navy, air force and army. We still have the problem of their anti-nuclear ship legislation. We refer to that as unfinished business and clearly I need to understand where they are in their nation and they need to understand where we are. We have worldwide commitments and it's very important for our nuclear-powered Navy to be able to go to different areas around the world where there is instability. We both looked for ways that we could improve

▼ See ONE ON ONE, A-9